



TO: Black Groups, Clubs, Organizations and Individuals

FROM: Silas Mosley Jr.  
Senior Training Technician  
AIDS Program, New Jersey State Department of Health

SUBJECT: Blacks Choose County Minority Task Force (CMTF)

DATE: October 16, 1987

## MEMO

According to CDC, AIDS prevention activities were funded at the level of \$104 million in fiscal year (FY) 1987 and an expected \$177.7 million in FY 1988. Although the spread of AIDS among minorities show a disproportionate percentage of 61%, community groups and organizations of Blacks, Hispanics, and other ethnic minorities of color have been excluded from federal, state and local AIDS decision and policy making processes regarding the allocation and expenditure of these millions of dollars as they relate to the AIDS epidemic and resulting health problems in minority communities.

In July 1987, CDC made available supplemental federal funds for minority groups and organizations with AIDS education projects and programs. These funds represented the first of a continuing effort to contract with minority groups and coalitions that represent or serve minority communities. The aim of this CDC initiative is to carry out a vastly expanded program on AIDS prevention in minority communities by providing support to those groups and organizations best situated in minority neighborhoods to meet specific health care and education needs of the community with regards to AIDS. CDC clearly prefers that the major thrust of the information/education service delivery effort in minority communities be accomplished by funding minority community groups and organizations. By doing so, CDC hopes to bring to the federal, state and local AIDS efforts the needed identification and cultural sensitivity which would: 1) raise the awareness of federal, state and local education and drug abuse agencies about minority community needs and limited resources; 2) raise awareness in minority neighborhoods and community about the threat of AIDS and what the individual can do to prevent the spread; and 3) provided federal and state authorities with acceptable projects best able to address AIDS education in minority communities.

This memo speaks of the collective effort among Blacks to organize local activity against AIDS which can effectively address the funding and decision making issues identified in the "Black Resolution" delivered at the August 7-9, 1987, CDC Conference on AIDS IN MINORITY POPULATIONS.

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) designated October 1987, as AIDS awareness month. Equally important, is that during this AIDS awareness month, leaders in black communities across the country will endeavor to enable black church groups, clubs, community groups and organizations to not only participate in but also to have in put in the federal, state and local AIDS initiatives designed for black neighborhoods.

In black communities across the nation, positive steps are being taken to set in place a viable structure designed to provide strong effective black representation and input in the federal, state, and local AIDS programs. The consensus of opinions among the black clergy, community groups, clubs and organizations from various states opts for the formation of a task force framework structured around a network of active community based organizations.

## County Minority Task Forces

### 1. Rationale:

Discussions with community groups and leaders in black communities indicate that the major interest in the black neighborhoods is concentrated on dealing with the AIDS problem in the home and neighborhood. The average Black community group tends to respond at its best in the form of a committee headed by a chairperson. The Black community sees merit and significance in a task force system structured around a working committee network. The black caucus also tends to favor such a national structure and other states groups have expressed interest in a working model. In as much as New Jersey is experimenting with the Task Force concept for its AIDS initiatives, various black community groups suggest installation of the following model:

### 2. Structure

#### County Minority AIDS Task Force

President \_\_\_\_\_ Vice President - NJSM Liaison

#### Committee Chairpersons

1. Professional Committee
2. Health Care Committee
3. Social Services Committee
4. Drug Addiction, Prisoner Rehabilitation Committee
5. Gay Rights Committee
6. Women's Rights Committee
7. Clergy Committee
8. Youth Advisory Interaction Committee
9. Committee on Cultural Sensitivity in AIDS Education & Information for Minorities and in Minority Committees.
10. Legislative, Congressional & Civil Rights Committee
11. Committee on Minority Participation and Input in ongoing and future state, private and federal AIDS projects and planned initiatives
12. Community Groups and Business Establishments Committee
13. Community Programs Development, Review and Evaluation
14. Public Relations, News Media and Information Dissemination

### 3. County Task Force Process and Procedure

#### a. President & Vice President

To integrate and share leadership, President and Vice President Chairpersons and Cochairpersons are to be of a different race and sex when more than one ethnic minority represents a

large segment of the minority population.

Both the President and Vice Presidents represents The County Minority Task Force on the State Task Force. The President and Vice President of The County Minority Task Force will express the will of his or her County Task Force "chairpersons" and "committee members" to the State Minority Task Force.

Only the issues and initiatives receiving the required majority vote of The County Task Force as a unit is presented to the State Minority Task Force for support and action.

Proposals, projects and grants agreed upon by the committee and task force chairpersons may be submitted by the President, Vice President of the County Task Force of the originating committee chairpersons directly to the funding source whether it be a state, federal or private agency or individual.

b. Committee

Each committee has a body of committee members. These committee members elect from the group:

1. Chairperson
2. Cochairperson/Treasurer
3. Secretary

c. Committee Chairperson & Cochairperson

The chairperson or cochairperson represents the committee's desires, decisions, opinions, suggestions, proposals, etc. to the County Task Force of Committee Chairpersons. All matters and issues place before the County Task Force of Chairpersons must be recorded in the official minutes of the committee and carried by a 2/3 majority of the vote of the active committee members.

d. Intrastructure of each Committee

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Chairperson    | Cochairperson   |
| Treasurer      | Secretary   |
| Task Group I   | Networking Operations   |
| Task Group II  | Neighborhood project development and needs assessments          |
| Task Group III | Community programs, progress review and evaluation              |
| Task Group IV  | Community information dissemination, training and M-SUS         |
| Task Group V   | for community and committee Fund raising and charity activities |
| Task Group VI. | Others  |

Agenda of State Minority Task Force

Matters and issues presented by the committees thru their Chairpersons will constitute the priorities, issues and agenda of the County AIDS Task Force Chairpersons body will determine specific items, issues, proposals, course of action, initiatives to implement, present and champion at the State Minority Task Force.

Summary

This outline of the structure, committee and procedure for the County Minority Task Force is but a proposal subject to modifications and changes by the minority population adopting the CMTF concept. The black community's establishment of a CMTF as it means of carrying out the BLACKS fight against AIDS, will not in any way hinder or prevent any individual BLACK or minority of color from continuing his or her present active membership and participation on an existing AIDS task force be it local, state or national. Moreover, no conflict of interest would occur from keeping the position because as a member of the CMTF, the individual becomes the representative of the minorities of color in the county.

SHOULD YOUR CLUB, CHURCH, GROUP OR ORGANIZATION LIKE TO FORM A CMTF COMMITTEE OR JUST PARTICIPATE IN A CMTF COMMITTEE, PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING FORM AND RETURN IT TO THE ADDRESS GIVEN BELOW AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. YOU WILL BE CONTACTED AND GIVEN DETAILS AND INSTRUCTIONS PERTAINING TO YOUR COUNTY MINORITY TASK FORCE:

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_ County: \_\_\_\_\_

Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please check below if you wish to represent your:)

Club: \_\_\_\_\_ Church: \_\_\_\_\_ Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Organization: \_\_\_\_\_  
NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ Ph ( ) \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

(Please name the COMMITTEE you would like to JOIN: or FORM: )

COMMITTEE NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

(Please detach this form and return it to : )

AIDS PROGRAM NJSDH

ATTN: Mr. Silas Mosley Jr.

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